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## NOTES AND NOVELTIES

A BOOK which should commend itself to collectors in natural history, as well as to the general reader fond of accounts of travel and adventure, is "To the Snows of Tibet, Through China," which is published by Longmans, Green & Co. The author is A. E. Pratt, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a well-known English naturalist and collector. His account of this trip, which he commenced in 1887, has many of the fascinating qualities of a romance, and there is not a page of it that is not interesting. The difficulties that environ the foreign explorer in China could not be more graphically depicted, and the incidents of the journey, apart from the main issue, give the book a distinct value. Mr. Pratt made remarkable collections, in the face of the most discouraging difficulties of his tour, and of these he gives lists in his appendices. Upon the evidence of Mr. Pratt's experience, China would seem to be a pretty good country for a naturalist to keep away from, unless he happened to travel with an army at his back.

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New etchings issued by M. Knoedler & Co. include an admirable plate by R. de Los Rios after the picture by D. Ridgway Knight, entitled "The Shepherd's Friends," which was exhibited in this gallery last season. The friends are a couple of buxom village girls, who having been sent to the river for the morning's supply of water have halted to gossip with the shepherd lad whose flock browse in the meadow along the bank of the stream. The artist has never given us a more attractive picture of simple country life, and the etcher has mastered the bright and cheerful color and spirit of his original with great skill. The title has been changed to "Rural Gossip," which is much more appropriate and expressive. Two excellent dry points, by Camille Fonce, are "The Village Pond," a quiet landscape, and a picturesque view of Litchfield Cathedral, seen beyond a foreground of meadowland and winding brook. By Paul Le'errier is a plate called "A Bright Day," which is worthy of its title. L. Kratke in a plate called "Just Too Late," shows two bull terriers, brought up in their chase of a rat by a closed gateway, under which their prey is giving them the slip. The dogs are rendered with character and spirit, and the execution is of that finished technical quality for which the artist is so well known.

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The following prices for autographs and documents were recently secured at auction in London: Document signed by John Calvin, £25; letter of Catherine de Medici, dated 1577, 13 guineas; letter of Charles I to the Duchess of Savoy, 15 guineas; letter of Admiral Coligny, £31; letter of Edward IV. in French, to Maximilian, Duke of Austria and Burgundy, £29; letter signed by Queen Elizabeth, with long holograph postscript referring to Mary Queen of Scots, £61; letter of Henry VII to Philip le Beau, King of Castile, £60; letter of Henrietta Maria, Queen of England, to Cardinal Mazarin, £11; letter of Maria Stuart, Queen of Scots, to Charles IX. of France, £62; letter of Napoleon I, when captain of artillery, rare, £21; another, signed "Nap," to Maria Louise, January, 1814, £14; letter of Rubens, the painter, 17 guineas; letter of Cardinal Woolsey, in French, to Margaret of Austria, £34; letter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, father of Edward IV and Richard III, £6 15s.

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Mr. Austin Dobson has brought out, through Macmillan & Co., a reprint, limited to 500 copies, of Fielding's "Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon," the original edition, including the "Fragment of a Comment on Lord Bolingbroke's Essays." The edition is printed on hand-made paper and bound with simple taste. The editor's work consists of a brief account of the variation between the first and later editions, with the conclusion that the shorter one is the earlier, certain passages being omitted out of consideration to the living; and besides, he adds several pages of notes of the sort of detail which proceeds from an acquaintance with the literature of the time, as if it were as accessible and inquisitive as the daily newspaper. This antiquary's knowledge, as it were, is nowhere more useful and often entertaining than in the decades of the last century. The sentence of Lowell, that Fielding best exhibits his own personality in the "Journal," fitly stands at the beginning of the volume.

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Two new bibliographies of interest to collectors are out. One is "A List of Books Relating to Aaron Burr," by Hamilton Bullock Tompkins, published by the Historical Printing Club, of Brooklyn, N. Y. This fills eighty-three pages and as many leaves, and indicates in what public libraries the books may be found. The other work is a "Homœopathic Bibliography of the United States (1825-1891)," by Thomas Lindsley Bradford, M.D., issued in Philadelphia by Boericke & Tafel, a work of large proportions—nearly 600 pages—and seemingly conscientiously executed. It deals not only with books, and with books *con* as well as *pro*, but with societies, colleges, hospitals, dispensaries, pharmacies, and, synoptically, medical legislation in the several States.

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The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that at Stevens' sale-rooms some New Guinea curios and natural history specimens have recently been disposed of at prices which show that there is still a good deal of spare cash about. Seven ordinary-looking butterflies, each measuring about an inch across, fetched within a few shillings of thirty-five guineas, and this despite the fact that they were nearly fifty years old. Curio-hunters were as keen as Indians for scalps, and a collection of New Guinea skulls, bearing crude ornamental

carvings and a ghastly grin, sold for several pounds. Human-bone daggers, teeth neck-ornaments, war clubs and wooden swords, found ready purchasers, and even eclipsed in interest the skull and bones discovered in Mauritius of that extinct bird, the dodo.

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The publication of the catalogue of the works of art in the possession of the Royal College of Surgeons in London has surprised even those who thought they were well acquainted with the art treasures of the college. The most valuable picture of the collection is a large painting representing the incorporation of the London surgeons and physicians by Henry VIII. The picture, which might also be called a study of figures, can safely be attributed to Hans Holbein. There are no less than eleven portraits of John Hunter, one of which is the famous portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds. There are also original drawings by H. garth and Richardson.

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A very good idea is that of the Society of Archivists and Autograph Collectors which is in process of formation, and will include the collectors of Europe and America. It will hold a loan exhibition of MSS. and autographs in London next winter; it proposes, indeed, to do this every year. The society will issue lists which will facilitate the exchange of duplicate specimens, etc. Among the members, it will hold meetings at which to exchange views as to the collection and preservation of MSS., and it will publish a quarterly or half-yearly journal which will give notes, reports, and fac-similes interesting to collectors. Other purposes suggested are the formation of a library accessible to members, of works connected with the society's objects; the compilation of a reference catalogue as complete as possible of the many valuable MSS. in private and other collections, and the formation of a permanent loan collection of MSS. and facsimiles.

## THE NATIONAL ACADEMY

THE eleventh autumn exhibition of the National Academy of Design will be opened to the public on Monday, November 21st, and will close on Saturday, December 17th. Works will be received from Friday, October 28th to Tuesday, November 1st, inclusive, after which time no work will be admitted. Lists must be sent to the superintendent before October 22d. Varnishing day, Friday, November 18th from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. Academicians, associates and exhibitors will be admitted and no other person, excepting the press (by card) after 12 o'clock M.

Original works in oil, pastel or sculpture, by living artists only, are eligible, and should never before have been publicly exhibited in the city of New York or Brooklyn. The jury of selection consists of J. G. Brown, F. S. Church, Charles C. Curran, Thomas W. Dewing, Gilbert Gaul, S. J. Guy, James M. Hart, Eastman Johnson, H. Bolton Jones, Will H. Low, George H. McCord, Louis Moeller, C. S. Reinhart, Augustus St. Gaudens, R. M. Shurtleff, D. W. Tryon, C. Y. Turner, Edgar M. Ward, Irving R. Wiles, J. H. Witt. The hanging committee are J. G. Brown, Irving R. Wiles, C. Y. Turner.

The Academy has issued its report for 1892, in handsome shape from the De Vinne Press. The president's report foreshadows a great loan exhibition of works of art of all kinds, to be held in the Academy next summer for the purpose of adding to the reserve fund. A legacy of \$30,000 from Mrs. Elizabeth Fogg, for the use of the schools, is announced, and also that Mr. W. F. Havemeyer has doubled his former annual donation of \$750 for a traveling scholarship, so as to provide two. Following the report is an account of the banquet at the Academy last April, with the addresses of the Hon. Seth Low, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, Mr. Charles Dudley Warner, Mr. Parke Godwin, Mr. Frederick J. De Peyster and others. To complete the story, we are given a diagram of the banquet hall and the places of the guests at table, and the bill of fare in which Pinard does himself proud.

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